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609 East Montgomery Street
Knoxville, Iowa 50138
12 May 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Gentlemen:

I'm writing in regard to Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food."

I understand that you're considering removing all labeling requirements from irradiated food and/or revising current wording of the irradiation label.

Freedom and responsibility go hand in hand. Because I desire the freedom for myself and others to make choices about the kinds of food we eat, I have assumed the responsibility of writing to you.

The absence of labeling indicating food has been irradiated would eliminate the right of the consumer to make informed choices about the food he or she believes is best. Prominent and clear labeling (with no ambiguous terms such as "cold pasteurization") maintains the right of the shopper to choose either irradiated or non-irradiated foods.

I request that you require clear and prominent labeling of all irradiated food (and any irradiated ingredients in foods that are composed of more than one ingredient) with no expiration date for the practice.

Thank you for preserving freedom and responsibility for the consumer.

Sincerely,

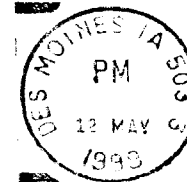
Judith Ladwig

Judith Ladwig

98N-1038

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